

**MINUTES OF THE SD WEED & PEST CONTROL COMMISSION**  
**Tuesday, September 11, 2018**  
**Matthews Training Center, Foss Building**  
**Pierre, SD**

Chairman Lynn Deibert called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM, September 11, 2018. Present were Chairman Deibert, and Commissioners Ron Thyen, Craig Magedanz, Duane Buckmeier, Floyd Muntefering, and Game Fish and Parks representative Paul Coughlin; School and Public Lands Commissioner Ryan Brunner; Non-Voting Members - SD Department of Agriculture representative Tom Gere; and SDSU representative Paul Johnson; and Commission Secretary Brenda Sievers. (Exhibit #1)

Craig Magedanz made a motion, seconded by Floyd Muntefering, to approve the agenda (Exhibit #2). Motion carried.

The minutes of the April 12, 2018, meeting was presented. Paul Coughlin made a motion, seconded by Ron Thyen to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2018, meeting. (Exhibit #3) Motion carried.

Chairman Deibert turned the meeting over to Hearing Officer Ryan Darling from the Hearing Examiners Office to conduct a public rules hearing to add Absinth Wormwood as a statewide noxious weed.

Paul Johnson presented the straw poll results taken at the State Fair, where the question was asked if Absinth Wormwood should be added as a statewide noxious weed. There were 126 yes votes and 46 no votes.

There were several people who spoke to the Commission both for and against the addition. After much discussion, Chairman Deibert declared a recess at 2 pm.

Chairman Deibert declared the recess over at 2:20 pm.

Ron Thyen made a motion to approve adding Absinth Wormwood as a statewide noxious weed. Duane Buckmeier seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Coughlin – no; Brunner – no; Thyen – no; Magedanz – yes; Buckmeier – yes; Muntefering – yes; Chairman Deibert – no. Motion failed.

#### **ACTIVITY REPORTS**

##### **SD Department of Agriculture – Weed & Pest Coordinator – Brenda Sievers**

Brenda talked about challenges this past spring and summer. Though it doesn't affect the weed program, the department did implement emergency quarantine measures when Emerald Ash Borer was found in the Sioux Falls area in May. Staff worked at Brown County Fair, DakotaFest and the State Fair this year. Though not a noxious weed, wild cucumber was one the most discussed weeds this year.

##### **Weed & Pest Supervisor – Ron Moehring**

Ron has been receiving complaints on noxious weeds and also on prairie dogs. One county went to court twice on a prairie dog enforcement complaint, though for now it has been controlled. It received a lot of publicity by the press in the western part of South Dakota. Ron shared the US Fish and Wildlife plan from the Sand Lake area. Ron reported that there are 9 counties without weed supervisors, 14 supervisors with less than 2 years' experience and 4 supervisors with less than one year.

##### **District 2 – Floyd Muntefering**

Floyd talked about those receiving leafy spurge bugs in the area and hoped more people would get interested and keep getting them.

#### **District At Large – Craig Magedanz**

Craig talked about the good crops in his area. He went along to the US Fish and Wildlife tour with some of the weed supervisors and learned a lot at that tour. It was an excellent tour.

#### **District 3 – Lynn Deibert**

Lynn reported that his area was wet early but it is now dry in Campbell County. Their county hired a contractor this year for noxious weed control.

#### **District 4 – Duane Buckmeier**

Duane reported that prairie dogs have been an issue in his area as well.

#### **District 1 – Ron Thyen**

Ron reported that they have been extremely wet. Yellow toadflax has been an issue in his area, and he has seen a lot of wild cucumber as well. The Canada thistle has had a fungus this year, more than in past years.

#### **Ryan Brunner – SD School and Public Lands**

Ryan stated they have 760,000 acres to oversee in the state and they are also working on prairie dog control. The lessees are the ones doing the control on School and Public Lands areas.

#### **Paul Coughlin – SD Game Fish & Parks**

Paul reported they are finishing up with seasonals and they are now compiling all their data from controls done.

#### **SD Department of Agriculture – Tom Gere**

Tom Gere, Assistant Division Director for Ag Services, talked about complaints are down about 50% this year but are still working on some Dicamba issues. They are expecting a new label on Dicamba by the end of the year.

#### **SDSU – Paul Johnson**

Paul talked about wormwood and toadflax plots that he had. They were working with the different 2,4-D's with Canada thistle and leafy spurge. He talked about the difficulties with controlling yellow toadflax, and has been working on plots to try to find better herbicide controls for it.

#### **USDA-APHIS-PPQ – Greg Buntrock**

Greg reported on grasshopper numbers are low. He talked about the federal Emerald Ash Borer quarantine and that they are looking at deregulating EAB at some time in the near future. There have been some bio-control releases done to help combat EAB in the Sioux Falls area.

#### **Bio-Control Survey Updates –Mike Stenson**

Mike updated the Commission on work being conducted with Bio-Control. Dalmation toadflax bio control has been very successful in the past in the Black Hills region, but this year saw declines in control. Poison hemlock bio control is still working good in the western part of South Dakota, but haven't taken off as well in eastern South Dakota. Leafy spurge collections were average this year. Purple loosestrife bio control was again done at the prison but had difficulty getting them out.

### **Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Update – Dale Anderson**

Dale reported on surveys that were done in 2018. Karnal bunt now rotates around the state but sample have all come back negative. Gypsy moth traps have been placed at campgrounds and all are negative. Khapra beetle work was also done this year. Japanese beetle was found in areas where there were positives in the past.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Dakotafest Update**

Ron Moehring, Brenda Sievers and Paul Johnson gave reports. Wild cucumber was brought up many times.

#### **Brown County Fair Update**

Mike Stenson reported wild cucumber, yellow toadflax and crabgrass were the weeds most inquired about.

#### **State Fair Update**

Paul Johnson talked about the good crowds at State Fair, estimating visiting with 5,000 people. He put a Absinth Wormwood plant in a cage.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Nate Jagim talked about prairie dog enforcement concerns. Nathan Mueller talked about state enforcement people and that it would be nice to have those positions back. Michael Schwindler talked about concerns with yellow toadflax, as well as the public needs to be informed more with the new seedings that US Fish and Wildlife Service are putting in.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Chris Petersen – South Dakota Department of Agriculture – Fiscal Office**

Chris presented info that was provided through the Board of Internal Controls. The goal is to eventually adopt the document defining code of conduct and conflict of interest. This will be put on the agenda to discuss in February.

#### **2018 Weed and Pest Conference Update – Gary Pribyl, Association of SD County Weed & Pest Boards**

Gary gave a Conference update. It will be held February 20, 21 & 22 at the Crossroads in Huron.

#### **Grant Criteria for FY2020**

The grant criteria for the FY2020 fiscal year was discussed. The Commission has \$650,000 for spending authority. A motion was made by Craig Magedanz, seconded by Ryan Brunner, to have \$330,000 available in regular/contractual county grants and \$320,000 available for competitive grants, with the remaining grant criteria to remain the same as last year. (In the event that a county or counties don't qualify for funding, the remaining funds will be divided equally to the nearest \$100, amongst those remaining counties that have met the requirements, without exceeding spending authority.) Motion carried.

Lynn Deibert appointed the following to the grant committee to go over the grants and make a recommendation to the Commission at the February meeting: Paul Johnson, Duane Buckmeier, Paul Coughlin, Floyd Muntefering, Lynn Deibert, Department of Ag Representative.

## **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

A motion was made by Floyd Muntefering, seconded by Duane Buckmeier, to pay for the meeting expenses, salary and per diem for this meeting. Motion carried.

Chairman Deibert declared the meeting adjourned at 4 pm.

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Brenda Sievers  
Commission Secretary

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Lynn Deibert, Commission Chairman  
(Approved Minutes)